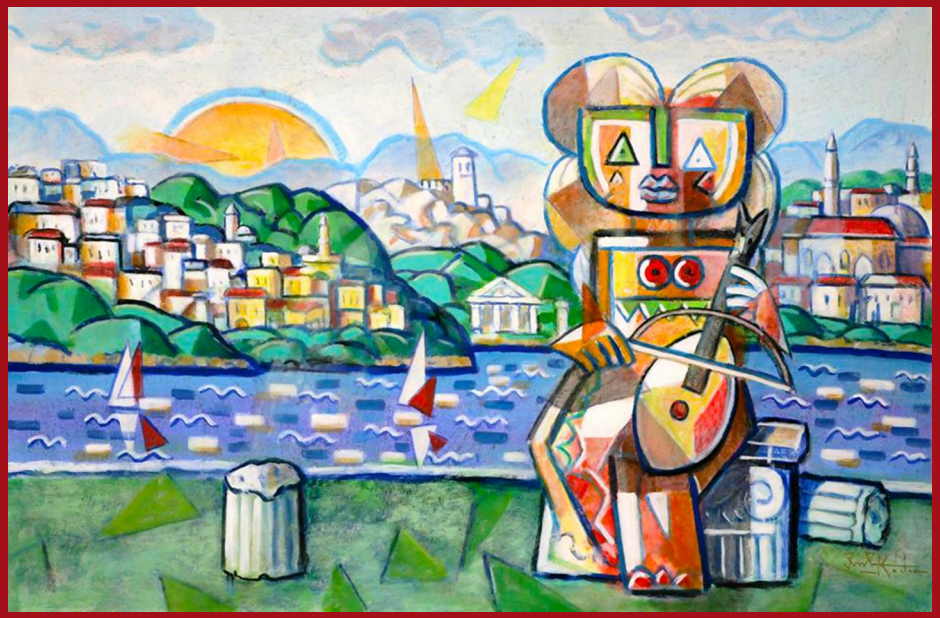


'Shqiperia Fantastike' (Fantastic Albania)
by the Albanian painter Ibrahim Kodra (1918–2006)

NOTES ON ALBANIA, Second Edition is developed and organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Albania to the United Kingdom with the kind collaboration of ROCMA.

The event is generously sponsored by Mr Aqif Neli, MCOIB, a British Albanian national, owner of AN Construction Solution Limited.

Special thanks go to our soprano Inva Mula, to all the artists and performers, and to the following contributors:

- The Rt Hon Lord Maclennan of Rogart
- Dr Xhoana Papakostandini, co-founder of ROCMA
- Mr Renis Tershana, EDS Foundation, Albania
- Ms Bryony Bethel, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Albania in Oxford
- Anglo-Albanian Association
- Mr Perparim Rama, architect, Co-Chairman of UK Albanian Professionals
- Ms Roxanna Panufnik, composer
- Mr Mark Stephenson, musician, conductor
- Ms Meredith Hamilton, musician
- Mr Andrew Clawson, Kings Place Music Foundation

Video by EDS foundation
Programme designed by Enrich Design Limited

Information within this programme was correct at the time of printing, however, the organisers reserve the right to make amendments as necessary to cater for any unforeseen circumstances.

Notes on Albania

Second Edition

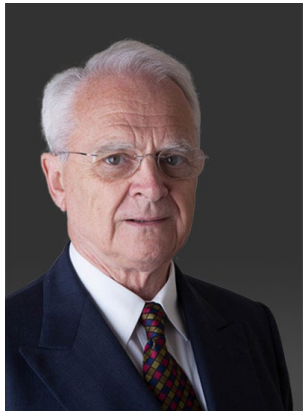
26 November 2014 – 7.00pm • Hall One, Kings Place, London N1 9AG

Welcome to this Second Edition of 'Notes on Albania' which comes on the 102nd anniversary of Albanian Independence. The First Edition, held at the Royal College of Music, consisted of a group of renowned British and Albanian artists who captured the public imagination and attention. I am proud that this year's edition will be led by the magnificent Soprano, Inva Mula, alongside British artists who are tightly linked with Albanian art and culture. The Albanian Embassy is making all of its efforts to turn 'Notes on Albania' in an annual event, in order to present talented, up-and-coming Albanian artists to a uniquely diverse British audience. Through this event, the Embassy aims to exhibit a 'Fantastic Albania', which has through its history preserved and cultivated an ancient set of cultural influences and traditions.

I wish to express my special thanks to The Rt Hon Lord Maclennan of Rogart for sharing my dedication and enthusiasm to make this event possible. I am extremely grateful to our artists who have kindly accepted to perform for us tonight, and to demonstrate the European roots and affinities of the Albanian people and their aspiration to be fully re-united with the rest of Europe in the shortest possible period of time. Albania was granted European Union candidate status in June 2014, and the people of Albania look forward enthusiastically to full EU membership. Each of us, as an individual European, inherits a distinct cultural tradition; but these traditions are inextricably interwoven, and our respect and delight in the enjoyment of art unites us.

I wish every success to the artists, and a very enjoyable evening to you, our distinguished audience.

Mal Berisha
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of Albania to the Court of St. James's



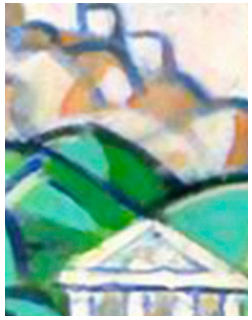
I am delighted to support the ambitious project of the Albanian Embassy in London to showcase for the British audience the culture of Albania in the widest sense. Such occasions not only contribute to strengthen the longstanding relations between our two nations, but also promote Albania as an essential part of our European cultural mosaic. The European culture is founded on the integration of two pillars: its diversity and its shared values. This concert celebrates both of these fundamental dimensions and highlights how the arts can go beyond the institutional agendas and naturally build bridges of dialogue and integration.

I express my best wishes to all the artists performing in this Second Edition of Notes on Albania and hope to see more Albanian talents in the years to come on London's rich and diverse cultural scene.

Lord Robert Maclennan of Rogart

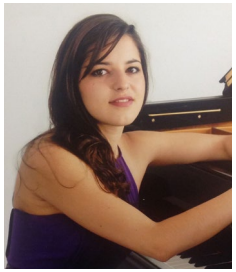
Robert Wilton writer

Robert Wilton was advisor to the Prime Minister of Kosovo before independence and has more recently been running an international mission in Albania. He is the founder of The Ideas Partnership charity, focused on educating marginalized children, cultural heritage and the environment. A prize-winning novelist, he launched 'The Spider of Sarajevo' on the centenary of the events it describes in the weeks before the First World War. He also writes on international intervention and translates a little poetry. He has translated part of the best Albanian poetry in English.



Eljon Vejsiu violin

Eljon Vejsiu studied at the Bulgarian National Academy of Music, graduating in 2000. He was awarded a full scholarship to commence postgraduate studies with Professor Yfrah Neaman at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. In 2008, Eljon was admitted onto the prestigious Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Music in Birmingham Conservatoire, where he studied with Susanne Stanzeleit. Eljon performs regularly as a member of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Brandenburg Sinfonia and as a soloist with the Albanian Radio-Television Orchestra. Last year he performed at the Royal College of Music, London for the First Edition of the Notes on Albania.



Mariela Cingo piano

Mariela Cingo was born in Korca, south-east Albania. Inspired by her mother, an opera singer herself, Mariela gave her first concert at the age of 7. By the age of 12 she had won her first competition and played Haydn piano concerto in D. In 1995, Mariela won a scholarship to study at the London College of Music. Whilst there, she went on to win the 'Piano Concerto' competition, 'Beethoven Prize' for which she had to represent the London College, 'John Ireland' and many more. She has worked with great names such as Martino Tirimo, John Lill, Angela Hewitt, Howard Shelley, Piers Lane, Leslie Howard and Peter Sheppard-Skærved. Mariela performs not only as a soloist but also in her capacity as a chamber musician; ALB Trio being her most recent collaboration. This is the second time that she performs for Notes on Albania.

Melina Karagianni piano

Melina Karagianni was born in Rhodes, Greece, by two Albanian parents. In 2007, she earned a place to study at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department and The Purcell School. Melina has won piano competitions including recitals at the Wigmore Hall winning the Jaques Samuels Intercollegiate Piano Competition. She reached the final of the Second International Liszt Piano Competition in Weimar. She has given many recitals in countries such as Greece, Denmark, France, Spain, Italy and England as well at the Megaro Mousikis, Wigmore Hall, St. James Piccadilly, Southbank Centre and Steinway Hall. In June 2011, Melina was chosen to play at an Investiture Ceremony at Buckingham Palace, in the presence of The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles. She is currently studying her Bachelor of Music Degree at the Royal Academy of Music under Professor Pascal Nemirovski.

NOTES ON ALBANIA – SECOND EDITION IN LONDON
Published on December 7, 2014

The promotion of Albania remains one of the most important objectives of the Albanian Embassy's work in London. For the Albanian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, **Mal Berisha**, no one represents the country more honorably than our great artists who perform with distinction on the world's most prestigious stages.
Following the success of the renowned actor **Mirush Kabashi**, the **Kings Place Theatre** in London was once again filled last night with the powerful presence of two acclaimed Albanian artists, whose names are applauded on many celebrated international stages.

The performance of our distinguished soprano **Inva Mula**, accompanied on piano by the virtuoso **Genc Tukiçi**, presented a deeply moving program. Also featured were the interpretations of **Marjela Cingo**, **Elion Vejsiu**, **Melina Karajani**, and the brilliant English violinist **Peter Sheppard Skerved**. Their performance captivated the audience for over an hour and a half.

This important event for the Albanian community in the UK was honored by the presence of ambassadors, lords, parliamentarians, the **Lord Mayor of Westminster**, British musicians, art enthusiasts, and members of the Albanian diaspora residing in the United Kingdom.

A highlight of the program was the recitation of Albanian poetry by **De Rada**, **Naim Frashëri**, and **Ismail Kadare**, translated into English and delivered with sensitivity by **Robert Wilton**.

Held on the eve of Albania's national November festivities, this concert recital featured both Albanian and international works, offering a rich harmony between cultures.

"A wonderful Albanian evening in London – nothing less than a triumph,"
declared Ambassador Mal Berisha.

"Notes on Albania" is the second edition of this concert series organized with the participation of both Albanian and British artists, and this year it was led by our world-renowned soprano, **Inva Mula**.

POSTER

'Shqiperia Fantastike' (Fantastic Albania) by the Albanian painter Ibrahim Kodra (1918–2006) NOTES ON ALBANIA, Second Edition is developed and organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Albania to the United Kingdom with the kind collaboration of ROCMA. The event is generously sponsored by Mr Aqif Neli, MCOIB, a British

Albanian national, owner of AN Construction Solution Limited. Special thanks go to our soprano Inva Mula, to all the artists and performers, and to the following contributors: • The Rt Hon Lord Maclennan of Rogart • Dr Xhoana Papakostandini, co-founder of ROCMA • Mr Renis Tershana, EDS Foundation, Albania • Ms Bryony Bethel, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Albania in Oxford • Anglo-Albanian Association • Mr Perparim Rama, architect, Co-Chairman of UK Albanian Professionals • Ms Roxanna Panufnik, composer • Mr Mark Stephenson, musician, conductor • Ms Meredith Hamilton, musician • Mr Andrew Clawson, Kings Place Music Foundation Video by Programme designed by Enrich Design Limited Information within this programme was correct at the time of printing, however, the organisers reserve the right to make amendments as necessary to cater for any unforeseen circumstances. Notes on Albania Second Edition 26 November 2014 – 7.00pm • Hall One, Kings Place, London N1 9AG Welcome to this Second Edition of 'Notes on Albania' Robert Wilton writer which comes on the 102nd anniversary of Albanian Independence. The First Edition, held at the Royal College of Music, consisted of a group of renowned British and Albanian artists who captured the public imagination and attention. I am proud that this year's edition will be led by the magnificent Soprano, Inva Mula, alongside British artists who are tightly linked with Albanian art and culture. The Albanian Embassy is making all of its efforts to turn 'Notes on Albania' in an annual event, in order to present talented,

up-and-coming Albanian artists to a uniquely diverse British audience. Through this event, the Embassy aims to exhibit a 'Fantastic Albania', which has through its history preserved and cultivated an ancient set of cultural influences and traditions. I wish to express my special thanks to The Rt Hon Lord Maclennan of Rogart for sharing my dedication and enthusiasm to make this event possible. I am extremely grateful to our artists who have kindly accepted to perform for us tonight, and to demonstrate the European roots and affinities of the Albanian people and their aspiration to be fully re-united with the rest of Europe in the shortest possible period of time. Albania was granted European Union candidate status in June 2014, and the people of Albania look forward enthusiastically to full EU membership. Each of us, as an individual European, inherits a distinct cultural tradition; but these traditions are inextricably interwoven, and our respect and delight in the enjoyment of art unites us. I wish every success to the artists, and a very enjoyable evening to you, our distinguished audience. Mal Berisha Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Albania to the Court of St. James's I am delighted to support the ambitious project of the Albanian Embassy in London to showcase for the British audience the culture of Albania in the widest sense. Such occasions not only contribute to strengthen the longstanding relations between our two nations, but also promote Albania as an essential part of our European cultural mosaic. The European culture is

founded on the integration of two pillars: its diversity and its shared values. This concert celebrates both of these fundamental dimensions and highlights how the arts can go beyond the institutional agendas and naturally build bridges of dialogue and integration. I express my best wishes to all the artists performing in this Second Edition of Notes on Albania and hope to see more Albanian talents in the years to come on London's rich and diverse cultural scene. Lord Robert Maclennan of Rogart Robert Wilton was advisor to the Prime Minister of Kosovo before independence and has more recently been running an international mission in Albania. He is the founder of The Ideas Partnership charity, focused on educating marginalized children, cultural heritage and the environment. A prize-winning novelist, he launched 'The Spider of Sarajevo' on the centenary of the events it describes in the weeks before the First World War. He also writes on international intervention and translates a little poetry. He has translated part of the best Albanian poetry in English. Eljon Vejsiu studied at the Bulgarian National Academy of Music, graduating in 2000. He was awarded a full scholarship to commence postgraduate studies with Professor Yfrah Neaman at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. In 2008, Eljon was admitted onto the prestigious Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Music in Birmingham Conservatoire, where he studied with Susanne Stanzeleit. Eljon performs regularly as a member of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Brandenburg Sinfonia and as a soloist with the Albanian Radio

Television Orchestra. Last year he performed at the Royal College of Music, London for the First Edition of the Notes on Albania. Eljon Vejsiu violin Melina Karagianni Mariela Cingo was born in Korca, south-east Albania. Inspired by her mother, an opera singer herself, Mariela gave her first concert at the age of 7. By the age of 12 she had won her first competition and played Haydn piano concerto in D. In 1995, Mariela won a scholarship to study at the London College of Music. Whilst there, she went on to win the 'Piano Concerto' competition, 'Beethoven Prize' for which she had to represent the London College, 'John Ireland' and many more. She has worked with great names such as Martino Tirimo, John Lill, Angela Hewitt, Howard Shelley, Piers Lane, Leslie Howard and Peter Sheppard-Skærved. Mariela performs not only as a soloist but also in her capacity as a chamber musician; ALB Trio being her most recent collaboration. This is the second time that she performs for Notes on Albania. Mariela Cingo piano was born in Rhodes, Greece, by two Albanian parents. In 2007, she earned a place to study at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department and The Purcell School. Melina has won piano competitions including recitals at the Wigmore Hall winning the Jaques Samuels Intercollegiate Piano Competition. She reached the final of the Second International Liszt Piano Competition in Weimar. She has given many recitals in countries such as Greece, Denmark, France, Spain, Italy and England as well at the Megaro Mousikis, Wigmore Hall, St. James Piccadilly, Southbank Centre and Steinway Hall. In June 2011, Melina was

chosen to play at an Investiture Ceremony at Buckingham Palace, in the presence of The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles. She is currently studying her Bachelor of Music Degree at the Royal Academy of Music under Professor Pascal Nemirovski. Melina Karagianni piano